

December, 1981

Volume I, No.4

Special Interest Workshop Is Satisfying, Exciting, Reassuring

In order to get the kind of response that the headline suggests, how does one plan a Special Interest Workshop a year in advance?

If you are Sachi Tamura, Director of Training, BCI, you use your background as a senior presenter; you listen carefully to the answers to questions you ask therapists and teachers. From this you discover that there is considerable interest in "how Blissymbolics can be used effectively with the multiple handicapped and mentally retarded?"

You then contact Susan Sansone, Director, Suffolk County Association for the Help of Retarded Children. Susan enthusiastically agrees to share her knowledge and experience, to invite highly regarded associates to help her, and to take responsibility for the workshop program.

BCI then becomes the link between Susan's work in New York and the many arrangements regarding space, publicity and registration coordinated by the Conference Office, of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in cooperation with their Department of Special Education.

In spite of a mail strike in the middle of summer, over a hundred persons arrive in Toronto to participate in a three day workshop from October 20 - 22. They come from as far away as Bermuda, seven of the American States and seven Canadian Provinces.

The program, thanks to Susan and her colleagues' creative planning, has many highlights. Lectures by Tina Cook and Shelly Deegan regarding alternate systems, Bob Drake, on computer technology, Robert Meyer on Assessment and reading, Penny Parnes on linguistic predictors, and Susan Sansone on models, program ideas, reading and symbols with blind retarded, provide a stimulating structure to the second focus of the workshop: recurring small (and some large!) discussion groups, with participants selected according to a shared interest (vocabulary selection; communication displays; teaching materials; programs in institutional settings; the role of technology). The last afternoon provides a reporting back time during which the ideas and

insights from the smaller groups are presented to the full group.

In any pioneer effort, the concern of the designers and planners is not usually accolades, but rather, the possibility of things left undone. Sachi Tamura and Susan Sansone are no exception. "Was it concrete enough in the (how to implement) sessions? Did the participants take away enough of what they had come for to feel satisfied?"

Evaluation and in-put from the participants indicate a successful and important mile-stone has been passed. This cooperative effort, between Ontario and New York professionals, provides a model for many future events.

For Penny Parnes, Director, Augmentative Communication Service, OCCC, speaker and workshop leader, it was "exciting". Penny is able to look over her shoulder to a long

involvement with Blissymbolics and say with some amazement and satisfaction, "how far we have come . . ."

This nebulous quality that sparked the beginnings of the development of Blissymbolics as a useful tool still remains the inner motivator for the further development of Blissymbolics.

Renewing acquaintances, and establishing new relationships is the fillip of socialization that allows us to believe we are part of an "International Family".

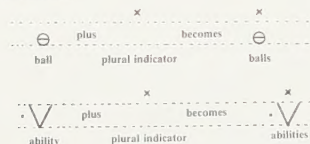
The intrinsic values one receives from work are hard to measure, but most would give this a ten on our scale of values. We can absorb knowledge, attempt to convey it with all the technical ingenuity at our command, but it is that moment of interaction when we know we have connected that provides the greatest satisfaction in communication.



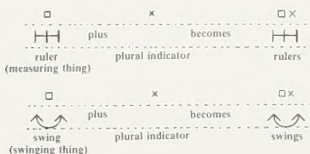
Susane Sansone presenting plaque to Shirley McNaughton at Special Interest Workshop

Forming The Plural In Blissymbolics

A. The simplest Form:



B. When the singular form of a symbol includes the *thing indicator* the plural form is:



C. Blissymbolics contains a simple way of creating a plural meaning when a number or quantitative modifier is involved. The number or quantitative modifier serves as a signal that the symbol which follows should be understood to have a plural meaning. The *plural indicator* is omitted. This pattern requires one less pointing motion, thereby speeding up communication for any user but most particularly for a physical handicapped user.



D. However, if the symbol user or instructor wishes to represent the plural of a symbol in a manner which parallels written or auditory receptive language the *plural indicator* may be added above the symbol even if a number or quantitative modifier is present. The *plural indicator* will help to emphasise the fact that there is usually a difference in structure and sound between the singular and the plural form of word or meaning for which the symbol stands.



Whether the symbol user chooses to employ pattern C or pattern D will depend upon the purpose for which the symbol message is intended. It may be expedient to follow pattern C when the primary objective is communication and pattern D when symbols are serving as a bridge to, or substitute for, written or spoken language.

Symbol Requests Challenging

Responding to requests from Canada and the United States is always interesting for Jinny Storr and Paula Ashmead. But particularly challenging are the requests from outside of North America. These require ingenuity as their skills and talents are tested in translating of symbols meanings to ensure correct grammatical forms, that may be language specific. Consultative work requires reading manuscripts prior to publication to ensure that Blissymbolic standards are met. The following projects give some idea of the creative effort and scope of the work in progress.

An Italian national who did her internship at BCI, is presently translating *Manner of Speaking*, a BCI publication into Italian. Two workshops are being planned in Italy for this coming year.

With the help of BCI, Germany, Norway and Israel are preparing symbol stamps that are appropriate in their respective languages in their own countries.

The Netherlands is using BCI master symbols to prepare Blissymbolic materials in Dutch. Also the Netherlands is anticipating their first Bliss-News. The first issue will have a chain letter in it. The plan is to have all the Bliss groups that receive it contribute to keep the chain unbroken. Watch for this in the Netherlands.

ASHA in L.A., 1981 Planning for Pre-ASH 1982

Shirley McNaughton, Penny Parnes and Stephanie Hayes, representing the Blissymbolics Communication Institute, Ontario Crippled Children's Centre, and the Ontario Speech and Hearing Association, respectively, met in Los Angeles with several members of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and communication aid distributors to discuss plans for the Toronto, 1982 Non-Speech Conference. As a result the dates for the Toronto Conference have been moved even closer to ASHA, 1982, with the General Orientation session on Wed. Nov. 17 and Thur. Nov. 18. Advanced Short Courses on Tues. Nov. 16 through Thurs. Nov. 18, and the Special Session for Distributors, Professionals and Users being held on Wed. November 17th.

The ASHA Ad Hoc committee dealing with issues relating to communication processes in non-Speaking persons as they affect speech and language professionals is planning special events with ASHA.

News from Training

Looking Ahead Preparation Begins with . . .

FLORIDA (Orlando) -

January - March 1982 — Continuing Education Correspondence/Workshop

October, 1982 — Elementary Training Session

Contact: Sandra Osborn
Forrest Park School
1600 Silver Star Road
Orlando, Florida 32804
Phone 305-293-0473

CALIFORNIA (Loma Linda)

March 22, 23, 24 1982

Contact: Dr. Mel Cohen
Blissymbolics Resource Centre
Dept. of Speech and Language Development
Loma Linda University Medical Center
P.O. Box 2000
Loma Linda, California 92354
Phone: 714-824-4401

NEW YORK (Long Island)

April 30, May 1 & 2, 1982

Maximum fee - \$275.00 (US)

Contact: Dr. H. R. Gillis
Speech and Hearing Education
C.W. Post Centre of Long Island University
Greenvale, New York 11548
Phone: 516-299-2436

ONTARIO (Kingston)

May 6, 7 and 8

Contact: Mr. Gregory Cosgrove
Superintendent of Schools
Frontenac-Lennox and Addington County
Roman Catholic Separate School Board
84 Stephen Street
Kingston, Ontario K7K 2C4
Phone 613-544-4927

NEW BRUNSWICK (Shippigan)

NOTE: This Workshop will be presented in French.

Spring (tentative)

Contact: M. Valois Robichaud
Director of Continuing Education
Shippigan Campus
University of New Brunswick
G. D. Jautier Blvd.
Shippigan, N.B. E0B 2P0
Phone: 506-336-4761

ALBERTA (Calgary)

Contact: Gillian Crowley
Assoc. Coord. for General Interest
Continuing Education
Mount Royal College
4825 Richard Rd. S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T3E 6K6
Phone: 403-246-6864

If you cannot attend one of the presently scheduled workshops, please enquire about hosting an Elementary Training Session at your centre.

The schedule of Sessions is updated regularly. Please contact the BCI Workshop Co-ordinator for the most recent schedule.

A Special Interest Workshop will take place in Britain April 13-18, 1982. This will be held at Castle Priory, Wallingford, England.

For any further information please contact:

Mrs. Ena Davies
Blissymbolics Communication Resource Centre
c/o Institute of Higher Education
Western Avenue
Llandaff, Cardiff, Wales
UL CF5 2YB

Internship is International

Designing programs that will meet the individual needs of persons from many parts of the world continues to be a challenging and exciting event in the lives of BCI staff. During September and October, BCI hosted 4 interns.

Mr. Jim Heller, Saskatchewan, Canada
Dr. Aurelia Revorato, Milan, Italy
Mr. Arne Vaisanen, Kuopio, Finland
Mrs. Florence Wertz, Minnesota, USA

All the participants agreed that the intensive one month preparation was positive in the results. The spin-offs are evident as the reports and requests come in from the home bases. (see symbol page)

Tentative dates for the next Internship will be November 8 to December 10, 1982. This choice will allow the interns to participate in the 1982 Non-Speech Conference, plus the 1982, ASHA Convention in Toronto.

News Briefs . . .

Busy Computer Learner

What better way for BCI to learn about computers than to have Susan Odell train in "its use". Thanks to the generous donation of the Zonta Apple by Zonta Club of Toronto I and the support of Vocational Rehab Services of Ontario, Sue has been able to come to BCI 12 days a week to learn "touch typing" on the Apple personal computer using a magnetic interface.

Pat Nearing assists Sue in discovering the special needs of a computer. Sue learns copying, spelling, simple programming and Blissnappe message-writing. BCI discovers there's lots of challenge and satisfaction in debugging computer programs!

It's a great new world - for the Blissymbol user and for all the rest of us.

Change in Subscription Year

To accommodate the accounting procedures here, all Newsletter and Bulletin subscriptions will now be on a calendar year basis, January to December. This will involve adjustments for some people who subscribed before August 1981. These people will receive a letter in early 1982, advising them of their status and offering them a pro-rated subscription for the balance of the calendar year 1982.

During 1982, the transition will be made to an annual re-subscription, and notification of these renewals will be made each fall. The special pro-rated fees will only be necessary during this transition year. We have tried to ensure that all subscribers are covered for the period they expect. If, however, you feel you have missed copies of the Newsletter or Bulletin, let us know and we'll look into it. The next Newsletter and Bulletin will be mailed in the spring of 1982.

\$30,000.00 Awarded

The Greater Victoria Society for Alternative Communication, British Columbia, Canada has been awarded \$30,000.00. In announcing the grant, Provincial Education Minister, Brian Smith indicated his pleasure in "making funds available to an organization that performs such valuable services to children. . . . And in particular to aid the Blissymbolics program in this International Year of Disabled Persons." Congratulations GVSII!

Raised Surface Format Evaluation Begins

The evaluation of the Sand Raised Blissymbol flashcards and the Rubber displays with raised surfaces, is about to begin. The creative technical work is completed. The National Research Council of Canada has produced the 100 prototype Rubber displays. The Blissymbolics Resource Center Suffolk County Chapter, Association for the Help of Retarded Children has developed the Sand Raised Blissymbol flash cards. Blissymbolics Communication Institute recognizes that without the help of these two organizations this important step could not have been taken.

The emphasis will continue to focus on co-operation. Susan Sansone, Director of the Suffolk County chapter, will continue to be involved in the study as will Dr. James Waters, clinical psychologist, formerly with the Suffolk County Chapter, recently moved to the Boston area.

This evaluation cannot take place without the support of those who have asked to be included. If you think you should receive an invitation and it has not arrived by January 30, 1982, please telephone Maddy Spicer at BCI 416-425-7835 and ask for an application.

New Publication

"To women who are pursuing their professional goals while juggling families, homes, jobs, continuing education and other personal responsibilities." This intriguing dedication heralds: **Communication Programming for the Severely Handicapped**, by Caroline R. Musselwhite and Karen W. St. Louis, College Hill Press, 1981. Look for a review in a future bulletin.

Research Grant

The Con Smythe Research Foundation for Crippled Children has recently funded a study by Geb Verburg on Blissymbol Acquisition by Physically Disabled and Able Persons of Low Intellectual Levels. This grant will provide seed money for six months to investigate the learning of symbols by persons of low cognitive level. He will be working very closely with BCI and the Rehab Engineering Department of OCC.

Audio Visual News

Two video tapes of interest have come to our attention.

1) Blissymbolics and Communication.

In this tape you really see how Blissymbols are used to communicate. For information please contact:

Mrs. Brenda Erce, Speech Pathologist
Gleason Hospital
10230 - 111 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5C 0B7

2) An interview from a TV programme describing various types of technology currently being used for augmentative communication in Hamilton, Ontario. For information please contact:

Sandy Hunter
Chedoke Hospital
Speech Therapy
Box 590
Hamilton, Ontario
L8N 3A2

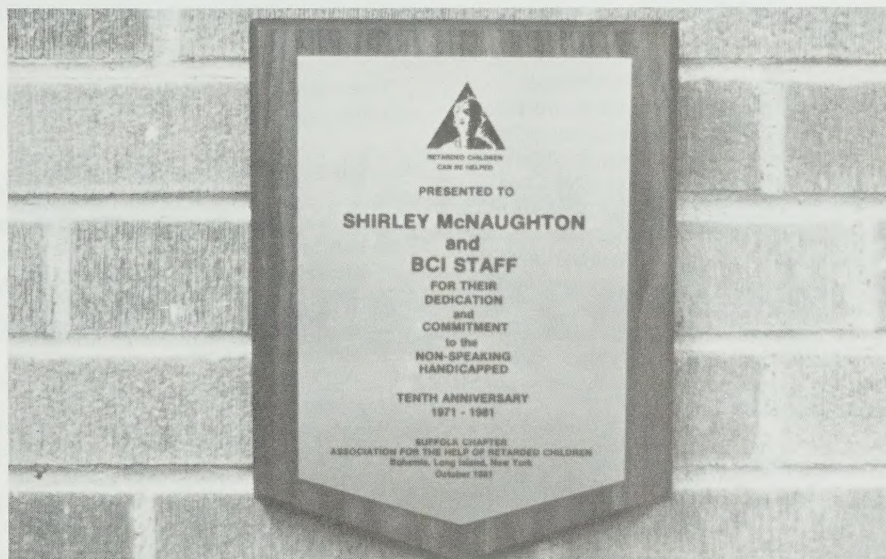
New French Slide Sound Presentation

Available from:
Richard Lavioie
372 Notre-Dame
St. Lambert, P.Q.
Canada J4P 2K1

"Une réponse possible" is an audio-visual document of approximately 10 minutes, which traces the history of Blissymbolics and presents the opinions of professionals and parents who have had experience with this communication system.

"Une réponse possible", diaporama d'une durée approximative de 10 minutes, se veut un document de sensibilisation qui retrace l'histoire du système Bliss et nous en présente certains éléments tout en nous livrant les témoignages de professionnels et de parents ayant une expérience avec le système de communication.

Happy Happenings



Although the BCI was unable to hold the "planned for" 10th Anniversary Celebration in October, several happy happenings made October a special remembering time. At a BCI Staff Party hosted by the Augmentative Communication Service, corsages were given to four of the early Blissymbol workers: Shirley McNaughton, Margrit Beesley, Jinny Storr and Paula Ashmead. Accompanying the presentation was a poem written and read by Penny Parnes with audience participation via cue cards by Barbara Collier. Lynetter Norris made sure the corsages were delivered and safely

pinned on.

The second surprise of October came when Susan Sansone, Director, Suffolk County Association for the Help of Retarded Children and co-ordinator for the Special Interest Workshop presented a plaque to Shirley McNaughton and all the BCI staff acknowledging the 10th Anniversary of the use of Blissymbols with the non-speaking.

And BCI received telephone and letter messages of congratulations!

A thank you to everyone for their thoughtfulness!

Special Price for NFB Slides

"Say it with Symbols"

For the few sets of SAY IT WITH SYMBOLS which remain in stock, a special price is being offered. The entire series of 735 slides produced by the National Film Board of Canada can be purchased for \$250.00. The series is designed to teach the meaning and use of approximately 250 symbols.

There are only seven sets left, and the price is now reduced to \$250.00.

For further information contact BCI.

Now Available

The Proceedings from the Special Interest Workshop held at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Toronto, October 20 - 22, 1981 are now available.

This book contains eight papers by the various presentors plus a synopsis of the Workshop discussion groups. Topics covered included models for consideration, assessments, programming ideas, technology, symbols for the blind and reading with symbols.

The Proceedings will be mailed to all participants at the Workshop. Extra copies may be obtained for \$3.50 (U.S. funds) from:

Susan Sansone
Suffolk Association for the Help of
Retarded Children
2900 Veteran's Memorial Hwy
Bohemia, New York 11716

FROM THE EDITOR

I am impressed!!! When I was approached by Shirley McNaughton to consider taking on the task of Editor of the Bulletin, I felt challenged, but inadequate. Two weeks of immersion in the literature of Blissymbolics, further discussions, a very hectic day of orientation and planning with the staff of BCI allowed me to attempt this first Bulletin.

As one committed to being human, I have no difficulty with the concepts, philosophy and attitudes that gird BCI. I am truly impressed with the dedication, hard work and care, from both the staff and volunteers, that goes into the designing, planning, training, and development to ensure that the resources of BCI will be used as effectively as possible.

Whatever we call that spark within, that allows us to be as creative as we can be, I believe it is in all of us. The task of learning how to tap in to and use it for our benefit is a shared task. Your comments, suggestions, will be given thoughtful consideration. I am looking forward to this involvement.

Janet May

Blissymbols at ASHA Poster Sessions

The following studies were reported through poster sessions.

Papers available from the authors:

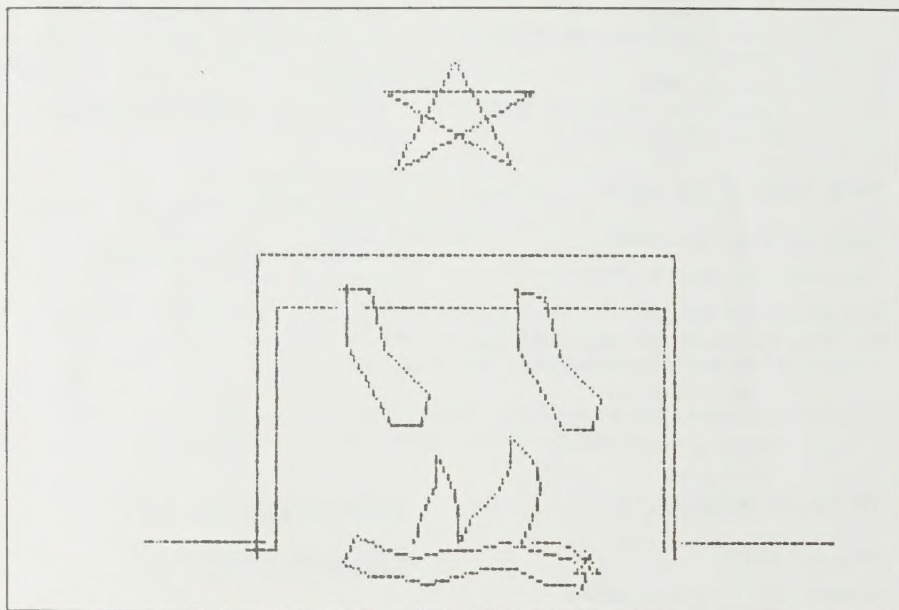
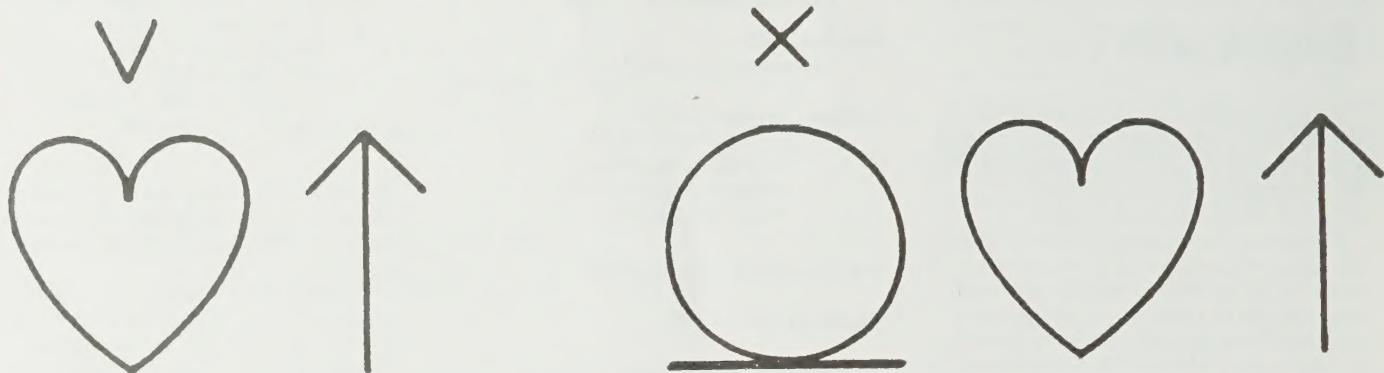
Stephen N. Calculator, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park.

Nancy L. Grows, Martin Fujiki, Stephen C. McFarlane, and Alfred S. Lavorato, University of Nevada-Reno.

Diane C. Bristow, John F. Kennedy Institute, Baltimore, Maryland.

Mary Jane Rahbar, Institute of Logopedics, Wichita, Kansas.

Happy Holidays



As we are preparing this Bulletin for print before Christmas, we are feeling in the holiday spirit and want to take this opportunity to wish you all Seasons Greetings.

The picture which is appearing on our BCI Christmas cards this year, was produced on the Apple Personal Computer by Kathy Lee an instructor of the ACS staff. She used the Turtle graphics program which was designed by the National Research Council of Canada to be controlled by a two switch interface.

Easter Seal Society Shows Film

Over the past several months, the Easter Seal Society has given presentations to over 35 service clubs in Ontario. We are pleased that they included the film "Now I Can Speak" as part of their program. Their tour around Ontario has taken them to: seven Lions Clubs from Aurora to Smooth Rock Falls; six Kiwanis Clubs such as Cornwall and Timmins; 16 Rotary Clubs from Belleville to Warton as well as to Kinsmen, Kinette and Progress Clubs from one end of the Province to the other.

This will surely increase public awareness in Blissymbolics and the Non-Speaking.

Many thanks Easter Seal Society!

It's On!

Choose your own color and put a big circle around **Friday, May 14, 1982** when you open your New Year's calendar. Remembering our past is what makes a future possible, so plan to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the first application of Blissymbols as a communication system for the non-speaking.

This will be held at OCCC, 350 Rumsey Road, Toronto. More information will appear in the March Bulletin.

For those who would like to come, but are unable to do so, we'd love to hear from you. A letter, card or telegram would be shared by all who are with us in person.



©BLISSYMBOLICS COMMUNICATION INSTITUTE, 1981

The Bulletin is a publication for the staff and associate members of the Blissymbolics Communication Institute. Editor, Janet May

Send letters, suggestions and news items to:

Editor
Blissymbolics Communication Institute
350 Rumsey Rd.
Toronto, Ontario
Canada.
M4G 1R8